

REMARKS

There are 18 claims remaining in this application, with claims 6, 8 and 10 having been cancelled. Claims 1, 7 and 11 are independent.

Previously Allowed Claims

Applicants' attorneys note the allowance of claims 11 through 14 in the January 23, 2006 Office Action.

Claims Indicated as Allowable

In the January 23, 2006 Office Action, it was indicated that claim 6 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including the limitations of its base claim. The limitations of claim 6 have now been incorporated in claim 1, which was the base claim of claim 6. Accordingly, claim 1 should now be allowed.

It was additionally indicated, in the January 23, 2006 Office Action, that claim 10 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of its base claim, i.e. claim 7.

Claim 7 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 10. As such, claim 7 should be considered to be allowable.

Dependent Claims

Claims Dependent from Claim 1

Claims 2, 3, 4 and 21 are dependent from claim 1 and should be considered to be allowable in view of such dependency. Claim 5 is dependent from claim 3, which is dependent from claim 1. Claim 5 should therefore be considered to be allowable.

Claims Dependent from Claim 7

Claims 9, 15, 16, 18 and 20 are dependent from claim 7 and should therefore be considered to be allowable, by virtue of such dependency.

Claim 17 is dependent from claim 16 which is, in turn, dependent from allowable claim 7. Claim 17 should thus be considered to be allowable.

Claim 19 is dependent from claim 18 which in turn, is dependent from allowable claim 7. Accordingly, claim 19 should be considered to be allowable as being dependent from an allowable base claim.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all claims remaining in this application are clearly allowable.

WHEREFORE, reconsideration and early allowance are earnestly solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,

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